



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C., 6th) Receives Hero of Taxpayer Award

*Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C., 6th) receives award from taxpayer advocacy organization for strong record of protecting taxpayers in 2003.*

**WASHINGTON** – Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nation's leading taxpayer advocacy organization, today awarded Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C., 6th) with its annual Hero of the Taxpayer Award for showing a strong record of siding with taxpayers on important tax and economic issues in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. The award was given to Rep. Howard Coble during a ceremony today in the U.S. Capitol.

U.S. senators and representatives receive the award for scoring 85 and higher, out of a possible 100, on ATR's annual congressional scorecard, which measures a representative's record on important taxpayer and economic issues. Rep. Coble scored 95 on the scorecard.

**"Politics in Washington is a continuing battle between taxpayers and the special interest spending lobbies on Capitol Hill who want to steal more of the taxpayers' money to spend on their projects,"** said taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, who is president of ATR in Washington. **"And when members of Congress come to Washington, they have to choose sides. Rep. Coble has chosen wisely to side with American taxpayers."**

Overall, 228 members of Congress – 182 representatives and 46 senators – received the Hero of the Taxpayer award. Eighteen votes were counted in both the Senate and U.S. House, and a representative or senator receives 10 points automatically for signing ATR's Taxpayer Protection Pledge, a written promise from candidates and elected officials to voters to oppose tax increases. Two-hundred and fifty-nine members of Congress (including 217 U.S. House members and 42 U.S. senators) have signed the Pledge. A complete list of all votes rated and their explanations can be viewed on ATR's website at [www.ATR.org](http://www.ATR.org).

Conversely, 144 members of Congress received the infamous Enemy of the Taxpayer Award, for scoring a 15 or below on the scorecard.

**"President Bush and Congress have cut taxes three times in three years,"** continued Norquist, **"but while tax hikes are off the table for now, the Bush Administration and these members of Congress need to focus on controlling spending. The federal government's spending has been increasing at unsustainable levels, and taxpayers need the help of leaders like Rep. Coble to control spending before the temptation to hike taxes comes back."**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or at [jcollegio@atr.org](mailto:jcollegio@atr.org).